

Doctor 1211

Chapter 1211: Demon Dragon Scorpion

On the boundless sea, several huge ships cleaved the waves at high speed.

By this time, the eastern sky had begun to show light, with dawn about to break.

From here to Misty Island, there was nearly a hundred li of sea journey.

Although the ships from Misty Island had not yet caught up with the ship Fang Bai and others were on, the distance was now less than two hundred zhang.

Standing on the deck of the Twin Six ship, the Martial Artists with good eyesight could even clearly see the faces of the people on the other ships.

"Elder Fang, our high-grade Essence Stones have all been consumed!"

A disciple from Green Bamboo Stronghold rushed out from the control room of the ship to Fang Bai's side, speaking anxiously.

In the absence of Wu Rongshan, Fang Bai, serving as Elder of Tribute of the Green Bamboo Stronghold, had become the backbone of this ship; everything was directed to him for decisions.

"Here are some high-grade Essence Stones in this Spatial Ring, use these first!"

Fang Bai furrowed his brows and tossed a Spatial Ring containing tens of thousands of high-grade Essence Stones to the sailor, casually wiping off the ring's restrictions.

The sailor, as if receiving a treasure, grabbed the Spatial Ring thrown by Fang Bai and ran back to the ship's control room.

All this way, the ship Fang Bai was on had maintained extreme cruising speed by expending all high-grade Essence Stones, thus it had not been overtaken by the ships from Misty Island.

Now, the store of high-grade Essence Stones on board was exhausted. If they switched to using medium or low-grade Essence Stones, the ship's speed would immediately slow down, and it wouldn't be long before they were intercepted by the pursuing ships behind them.

Fang Bai understood that although the tens of thousands of high-grade Essence Stones he brought out seemed ample, they essentially wouldn't last long in powering the ship.

Seeing Fang Bai taking out part of the high-grade Essence Stones, Su Linglong and others also opened their purses, contributing their own high-grade Essence Stones, which Ghost Hand then delivered into the ship's control room.

Although Fang Bai knew that these Essence Stones were but a drop in the bucket and could not propel the ship very far, in this critical moment, delaying even for a moment was valuable.

"You brat, see where you can escape to today! Once we catch up to you, I will ensure that the Martial Artists aboard your entire ship become a feast for the Sea Beasts in the Purgatory Sea, clearing the hatred in Madam Linghu's heart!"

While Fang Bai's mind was racing and he was pondering countermeasures, a chillingly cold female laughter came from a pursuing ship behind, clearly heard by all the Martial Artists on board, including Fang Bai.

The laughter came from Madam Linghu.

Having been trapped in the Minor Demon Trapping Array by Fang Bai for over two hours, Madam Linghu had just broken out of the array, knowing that Fang Bai would inevitably head back to the ship at the harbor and leave Misty Island at the first opportunity. She went directly aboard Misty Island's ship and arrived at the harbor, intending to stop the ship on which Fang Bai was.

In Madam Linghu's view, once Fang Bai escaped from Misty Island, he could potentially make public what he witnessed, by which time, Misty Island's reputation would be destroyed, and no ship would dare to dock there.

Without ships docking, Madam Linghu would be unable to find suitable Martial Artists for combined cultivation, and the Martial Artists on Misty Island would also struggle to obtain the resources needed for cultivation.

In the long run, the islanders of Misty Island would surely become restless, unable to focus on their cultivation, and might even leave Misty Island due to a lack of cultivation resources.

Should such a situation occur, it would mark the beginning of Misty Island's decline, and even Madam Linghu herself would likely be unable to continue staying on the island.

By then, Misty Island would become a desolate and uninhabited island hanging isolated over the sea.

Therefore, Madam Linghu was determined, she absolutely could not let Fang Bai leave alive, and she had no intention to spare even one of the thousand Martial Artists aboard Fang Bai's ship.

Seeing that the distance between the two ships grew increasingly closer, and that it would take at most another half hour to intercept Fang Bai's ship, Madam Linghu's cold laughter continued, projecting her voice across the air.

The two ships were several hundred meters apart, and with the strong winds and rough waves, the fact that Madam Linghu could project her voice clearly into the ears of Fang Bai and the others was a truly astonishing display of strength. On the ship, among the thousands of Martial Artists, only Fang Bai could achieve the same feat.

Everyone knew that Madam Linghu was the Island Master of Misty Island. Although her true power had always been a mystery to outsiders, it was said to be no less than that of a Sect Master of a first-rate Sect.

If the rumors were true, then Madam Linghu was at least a Martial Artist at the Universe Level perfection realm.

In the eyes of the majority of Martial Artists in the True Martial Realm, Universe Level perfection was the pinnacle of strength in this world. Thus, when they heard the name Madam Linghu, the faces of the thousands of Martial Artists on Fang Bai's ship drastically changed.

"Elder Fang, what should we do?"

The temporary captain of the ship, a Core Disciple from Green Bamboo Stronghold filling in for Wu Rongshan, asked with a panicked expression, turning to Fang Bai.

The eyes of the other Martial Artists also focused on Fang Bai.

Fang Bai gazed intently into the distance towards the sea where the sunrise was emerging; the waves were tumultuous there, dotted with golden specks, and a thick concentration of Water Element Qi lingered over that area of the sea.

"Spare no expense, accelerate forward! Head towards there!"

Fang Bai, sensing the dense Water Element Qi gathering in the sea ahead, suddenly brightened up, his face revealing joy as he pointed towards the place shimmering with specks of golden light.

The Martial Artists on the ship were not powerful enough to sense the rich Water Element Qi concentrated in that area of the sea ahead and did not understand Fang Bai's intentions. However, seeing the joy on Fang Bai's face, they felt somewhat relieved from their tense and panicky mood.

The crew controlling the ship, all disciples from Green Bamboo Stronghold, regarded Fang Bai's command as paramount. Upon hearing his order, they immediately turned the ship around and used up all the remaining Essence Stones to drive the ship at full speed.

"Quick... Chase after them!"

Madam Linghu, extremely familiar with the sea conditions within a thousand miles of Misty Island, saw Fang Bai and the others' ship heading towards the sea area with gathering Water Element Qi and flickering golden lights, and she frowned, urgently urging her subordinates to accelerate their pursuit.

"Brother Fang, something's not right! It seems there are Sea Beasts there!"

"Those Sea Beasts seem to be much more powerful than the Dragon Scale Whales we encountered before!"

"Yes, I've sensed it too!"

"Perhaps that sea area is the territory of those Sea Beasts. Entering it might enrage them!"

"Stay calm, Brother Fang must have his reasons!"

...

When Fang Bai and the others' ship was still a few miles away from the golden shimmering sea area, the keenly sensitive Wu De, Su Linglong, and Dongfang Ruhua had already realized that the area was a zone of activity for a group of Spirit Beasts.

"Have you never heard of the Demon Dragon Scorpion?"

Fang Bai suddenly turned his head and asked.

Dongfang Ruhua tilted his head and said, "Demon Dragon Scorpion? I've never heard of it! Is it a type of Sea Beast? Could it be..."

"You've guessed right!"

Fang Bai, with a gleaming look in his eyes, gazed towards the sea ahead, smiling relaxedly and said, "That shimmering gold ahead is indeed the Demon Dragon Scorpion, and it's from the most noble, most powerful category! The attack power and destructive force of a mature Demon Dragon Scorpion exceed those of a Cosmic Level perfection human Martial Artist!"

Chapter 1212: Wu De Provokes "Public Anger"

"Since the Demon Dragon Scorpion is so terrifying, shouldn't our ship stay as far away from it as possible?"

Zhuge Lian, who had grown up in the True Martial Realm, had heard of the Demon Dragon Scorpion before. He knew it was a fearsome sea creature with a massive body like a dragon and a tail like a scorpion, and couldn't help but ask.

"I know why Brother Fang is doing this..."

Among the women with Fang Bai, Linghu Baimei was the most quick-witted, and she continued, "Brother Fang is skilled in the Beast Taming Art. He wants to use those Demon Dragon Scorpions to fight against the ships from Misty Island."

"Those who know me, Baimei does!"

Fang Bai laughed heartily and nodded, "Exactly, I plan to lure the people from Misty Island into the territory of the Demon Dragon Scorpions, then use the Beast Taming Art to make the Demon Dragon Scorpions attack their ships, allowing us to escape."

Wu De, who had been looking troubled, now couldn't help but get excited, rubbing his hands together and grinning, "I knew it, Brother Fang you always have tricky plans up your sleeve for escaping trouble!"

Dongfang Ruhua spat out in contempt at Wu De, "Fat Taoist spouting nonsense, what do you mean by 'tricky plans'? This is clearly Brother Fang's skill!"

"Yes! Indeed! If anyone has tricky plans, it's you, Fat Taoist!"

"Look at that big belly of yours, who knows how many tricky plans it holds!"

...

Su Linglong and the others were unhappy hearing Wu De describe Fang Bai as having 'tricky plans', and they all rolled their eyes at him.

Having gotten to know Wu De well, and hearing Fang Bai sometimes calling him "Fat Taoist", and seeing Wu De's round figure, they thought the nickname rather fitting and started calling him that too.

Realizing he had incited the ire of the women, who were all chattering in defense of Fang Bai, Wu De sighed and murmured, "Having many wives is indeed good, ganging up in a verbal fight, I can't win..."

At his words, some of the women's faces flushed with embarrassment, while others couldn't help but giggle.

Linghu Baimei teased with a laugh, "Are you envious, Fat Taoist? Why don't you leave the order, find yourself ten or eight wives, then you'll have people to back you up in fights and arguments!"

Wu De shook his head vigorously, "No way! No way! The Taoist Master once had his fortune told; he's a calamitous lone star, destined to be without women in his life! Besides, women are so troublesome with all their coquettishness, I can't even handle one, let alone ten or eight—I'd go insane!"

Having said this, he looked at Su Linglong and the others, then at Fang Bai, and chuckled, "Brother Fang, I genuinely admire you. To maneuver among so many women and still manage effortlessly. Just like passing through a sea of flowers without a single leaf sticking..."

"Cough cough..."

Fang Bai, worried that Wu De might blurt any inappropriate remarks and embarrass everyone, quickly coughed loudly several times to interrupt him.

"You this Fat Taoist, if you keep spouting nonsense, be careful I'll throw you into the sea to feed the Demon Dragon Scorpions!"

Fang Bai secretly transmitted his voice to Wu De.

Although Wu De knew that Fang Bai was just trying to scare him, seeing the shimmering points of gold growing closer ahead and thinking of the terror of the Demon Dragon Scorpions, he couldn't help but shiver and obediently shut his mouth, daring not to speak further.

The ship, like an arrow shot out fiercely, sped across the sea, drawing nearer and nearer to the group of Demon Dragon Scorpions.

The group of Demon Dragon Scorpions seemed to have also sensed the aura of human Martial Artists, heading towards the ship Fang Bai and others were on, stirring up huge waves along the way.

"We seem to have encountered a Demon Dragon Scorpion family!"

Fang Bai stared intently at the turbulent sea ahead and solemnly said, "Normally, a Demon Dragon Scorpion family consists of hundreds of Demon Dragon Scorpions, with at least thirty being mature ones. This is equivalent to thirty human Cosmic Level perfection powerhouses..."

Upon hearing Fang Bai's words, Wu De and the others couldn't help but gasp in shock.

Among the thousands of martial artists on this sea ship, aside from Fang Bai, there were only a few early stage Cosmic Level strong ones. Faced with thirty Demon Dragon Scorpions, as powerful as Cosmic Level perfection powerhouses, even if the ship was sturdy and equipped with a Defensive Array, they had no confidence in withstanding such a powerful group's attack.

Wu De and the others were already somewhat timid and fearful, and Fang Bai's next sentence sent chills down their spines.

"The tail of the Demon Dragon Scorpion carries a poison sac. The venom from one mature Demon Dragon Scorpion can corrode solid rock; if it splashes on a martial artist, even an early stage Cosmic Level strong one, their flesh would turn into pus in an instant."

Fang Bai's gaze swept over Wu De and the rest as he spoke earnestly.

"Goodness, is there such a formidable beast in the sea?"

Wu De was wide-eyed and speechless, with a hint of fear in his eyes.

Initially, he stood at the front of the ship's deck wanting to see the appearance of the Demon Dragon Scorpions, but after hearing Fang Bai's words, he subconsciously retreated several steps backward, as if afraid that the venom might splash onto him.

Other martial artists also quickly retreated.

Even Cosmic Level early strong ones couldn't resist the venom of Demon Dragon Scorpions, let alone them, the Vast Level martial artists?

With a large group of Demon Dragon Scorpions approaching at the front and the powerhouses like Madam Linghu from Misty Island chasing from behind, Fang Bai and the others on the sea ship were trapped in a perilous sandwich.

Wu De and others were extremely uneasy, silently praying that Fang Bai's Beast Taming Art would work, hoping that the Demon Dragon Scorpions would not attack them but rather target the Misty Island ships chasing them.

Tens of moments later, that group of Demon Dragon Scorpions was only a few hundred meters away from Fang Bai and the others' ship, and many martial artists on the ship could already make out their general appearance.

The front row of Demon Dragon Scorpions, about ten meters long, covered in golden scales looking like metallic armor. Under the sunlight, they reflected specks of golden luster.

Especially striking was the huge venomous hook on the tail of that row of Demon Dragon Scorpions, with the venom concealed within.

The front row, all mature Demon Dragon Scorpions, possessed the fiercest attack power and destructiveness. Their bodies swiftly twisted, breaking through the waves and charging towards the sea ship that Fang Bai and others were on.

Following behind them were several dozen relatively smaller and younger Demon Dragon Scorpions, whose attacking and destructive powers were far less than those in the front row, but still not something that Wu De and other Vast Level martial artists could handle.

At the same time, Madam Linghu also sensed the presence of the Demon Dragon Scorpions and was overjoyed, thinking that with the Demon Dragon Scorpions blocking the way, Fang Bai and his companions had no chance of escape this time.

"Boom!"

A dull thud sounded as one mature Demon Dragon Scorpion was the first to meet Fang Bai and others' ship, its tail fiercely slashing towards the ship and embedding deeply into the ship's body.

"Such a sharp tail!"

Dongfang Ruhua let out an involuntary cry of alarm.

Yet the next moment, something even more astonishing happened.

Chapter 1213: Fight "Poison" with Poison

The Demon Dragon Scorpion is one of the most destructive sea monsters in the Purgatory Sea. Ships that encounter a swarm of Demon Dragon Scorpions usually do not meet with good outcomes.

"Chi!"

A light sound was heard, as the tail hook of that Demon Dragon Scorpion spurted out venom, splattering it on the ship's hull, corroding a bowl-sized deep mark into the wood more steadfast than Wanshi, emitting a puff of white smoke.

That white smoke, laden with potent toxicity, spread upward from the bottom of the ship with the sea breeze and drifted into the noses of some martial artists on board, which was extremely pungent.

"The smoke is poisonous, everyone be careful!"

Fang Bai saw that some martial artists on the ship did not know to hold their breath and restrain their Essence Energy, and immediately shouted loudly.

No sooner had his voice fallen than a dozen or so weaker martial artists collapsed to the ground, frothing at the mouth, their eyes rolling back as they fainted away.

Stronger martial artists, upon smelling the toxic smoke, also felt dizzy and nauseous. After hearing Fang Bai's words, they immediately closed their mouths tightly, suppressed their breathing, and formed defensive Qi Shields around their bodies to keep out the poisonous smoke.

The companions of the few unconscious martial artists immediately took out detoxifying and healing elixirs and stuffed them into their mouths.

As the martial artists on the deck were in turmoil, dozens of adult Demon Dragon Scorpions in the sea began to spray venom from their tail hooks to corrode the ship's hull.

In the blink of an eye, nearly a hundred bowl-sized holes appeared at the bottom of the ship.

A tiny hole has no effect on a huge ship, and hundreds of small holes would not cause fatal damage, but tens of thousands of small holes could lead to terrifying consequences.

The martial artists on the ship quickly realized this point. Seeing the incessant streams of poisonous smoke and the growing holes in the ship's body, they couldn't help but turn pale and their faces showed panic.

At this rate, perhaps only after a few hours, the ship's underside could be corroded by the Demon Dragon Scorpion's venom, creating large holes through which seawater could pour in, and the ship might be at risk of capsizing.

In this vast sea full of sea beasts, once a ship capsizes, even a Universe Level Expert faces an outcome of nine deaths and one life.

The Misty Island ships chasing from behind slowed down, hovering hundreds of meters away on the sea. Including Madam Linghu, the inhabitants of Misty Island watched the ship Fang Bai was on being attacked by Demon Dragon Scorpions, each showing an expression of schadenfreude.

"Jiu..."

Suddenly a clear whistle came from Fang Bai's mouth.

The Demon Dragon Scorpions attacking the ship Fang Bai was on seemed extremely pained upon hearing his whistle, and stopped attacking the ship, their bodies struggling and twisting in the sea.

"To be able to control a family of Demon Dragon Scorpions, this lad's Beast Taming Technique far surpasses mine!" exclaimed Madam Linghu, unable to help but click her tongue in admiration upon hearing Fang Bai's whistle and seeing the abnormal reaction from those Demon Dragon Scorpions. She hated that she couldn't capture Fang Bai right away and force from his mouth the Beast Taming Technique.

However, in the next moment, Madam Linghu's expression changed.

As Fang Bai's whistle grew even more piercing, those hundreds of Demon Dragon Scorpions turned around and swiftly swam towards the Misty Island ships.

"Change directions! Hurry up and go!"

Madam Linghu knew that once besieged by that swarm of Demon Dragon Scorpions, the consequences would be unimaginable and immediately shrieked loudly.

The Misty Island inhabitants on the ships had just been taking pleasure in others' misfortunes; little did they expect that in the blink of an eye, the situation changed drastically. The target of the Demon Dragon Scorpions' attack had become their own ships.

Upon hearing Madam Linghu's shout, several Misty Island sea ships turned their bows around, trying to shake off the horde of Demon Dragon Scorpions.

However, given the gigantic size of the sea ships, they naturally could not move as swiftly in the sea as the Demon Dragon Scorpions.

Halfway through turning, a "thumping" sound came from the bottom of the ships, followed by the emission of strands of pungent poisonous smoke.

The faces of Madam Linghu and the other residents of Misty Island turned grim, knowing that the sea ships were now entangled by the Demon Dragon Scorpions, and it would probably take a substantial amount of time to shake them off.

In contrast, the sea ship Fang Bai was on, with over a thousand Martial Artists gathered on the deck surrounding Fang Bai, erupted in cheers and then sailed off into the distance, quickly disappearing tens of miles away.

"Damn it!"

Madam Linghu cursed under her breath as she watched the departing ship grow smaller in the distance, trying to use the Beast Taming Technique to drive away the Demon Dragon Scorpions, but to little effect, leaving her frustrated and infuriated.

"All Cosmic Level mid-rank and above islanders, follow me into the water to exterminate those Demon Dragon Scorpions!"

Madam Linghu, teeth clenched and stamping her foot, shielded herself with Essence Energy, grabbed a tough rope, and leaped from the ship's deck, leading the way.

More than two hundred Cosmic Level mid-rank and above islanders from Misty Island followed Madam Linghu, each grabbing a rope to jump down as well.

Suspended a few meters above the sea surface, Madam Linghu and the other two hundred plus Cosmic Level mid-rank, high-rank, and at perfection experts each summoned their Spiritual Artifacts and launched an attack on the Demon Dragon Scorpions.

The Demon Dragon Scorpions were highly intelligent and fought back when attacked, temporarily halting their corrosion of the ships and engaging in battle with the Misty Island powerhouses.

Although Madam Linghu's side had the absolute advantage in numbers and was stronger in power, the islanders had to hold onto ropes and remain levitated, leading to significant Essence Energy expenditure and a consequent weakening of their fighting strength.

Thus, the battle between Martial Artists and Sea Beasts saw casualties on both sides, with neither managing to repel or drive away the other in a short time.

For Madam Linghu, such a stalemate was unacceptable. If Fang Bai and the others escaped, it would not only tarnish Misty Island's reputation but also render all her previous efforts futile.

Yet Madam Linghu had no quick solution to rid themselves of this group of Demon Dragon Scorpions and had no choice but to fight them head-on.

The sound of "sizzling" was continuous as it was the sound of poisonous liquid from the Demon Dragon Scorpions corroding the clothes and flesh of the warriors, followed by screams of extreme agony.

Some less fortunate Cosmic Level mid-rank Martial Artists, with their clothing and flesh corroded by the toxin, displayed bare bones in a gruesome and terrifying struggle.

Despite this, since Madam Linghu showed no signs of retreat, no Martial Artists dared to back down, for if Madam Linghu turned her wrath upon them, they would suffer indescribable pain far worse than that of the Demon Dragon Scorpion venom, life being worse than death.

Madam Linghu, with near-Innate strength, fought one against ten, wielding a green whip in her hand that radiated dense Wood Element Qi. It moved fluidly like a snake, with every strike causing injury to a Demon Dragon Scorpion.

The green whip in Madam Linghu's hand was a high-grade Spiritual Artifact of exceptional quality, capable of delivering blows that even Universe Level Experts at perfection would find hard to withstand.

The strongest of the Demon Dragon Scorpion group was only equivalent to a Cosmic Level perfection expert, but the natural defensive capabilities of Spirit Beasts were formidable, so much so that they managed to withstand the strikes of Madam Linghu's green whip.

While the fierce battle was in full swing, the sea ship carrying Fang Bai sped away, increasingly distancing itself from the ships of Misty Island, until it was out of sight.

"Huff..."

Wu De, Su Linglong, and the others all heaved a sigh of relief, seeing the color of fortune in each other's eyes!

Chapter 1214: Under the Moon, a Figure like Jade

After a day and night of sailing, the sea vessel Fang Bai and the others were on had left Misty Island a thousand miles behind.

Only now did the martial artists on the sea vessel dare to confirm that they had shaken off the pursuit of Misty Island's ships and could finally relax; smiles appeared on everyone's faces.

Having weathered numerous perils, the remaining voyage seemed to begin to go smoothly; not only were there no encounters with severe weather, but there were also no attacks from fierce sea beasts, allowing the martial artists on the vessel to finally rest and cultivate in their rooms in peace.

However, Fang Bai always felt a shadow hanging over his heart. He knew that the Demon Dragon Scorpions could only temporarily halt the pursuit from Misty Island's ships. It was impossible to entrap them forever. Once they escaped the Demon Dragon Scorpions, they might continue the pursuit.

On this night, with a clear moon and sparse stars, a gentle sea breeze blew, and many martial artists gathered in groups of threes and twos on the ship, enjoying the gorgeous rise of the bright moon over the sea while discussing various matters related to the Shenwu Continent.

By now, the ship had sailed through most of the Purgatory Sea, and at a normal speed, it would be about half a month's voyage away from the Shenwu Continent.

In the minds of the martial artists who had never been to Shenwu Continent, it was a place with dense Essence Energy, abundant Cultivation Resources, established schools, and where strong experts were as common as clouds. Undertaking trials there, despite the great dangers, would also yield numerous opportunities.

For thousands upon thousands of years, many martial artists from all over the True Martial Realm had come to Shenwu Continent for trials, gained various fortunes, and risen to become peak powerhouses with their fame spreading far and wide.

Inspired by these successful examples, other martial artists followed in their footsteps, heading to Shenwu Continent in hopes of replicating the miracles of their predecessors.

When the martial artists on the ship talked about these things, their faces invariably showed a barely concealable excitement, full of longing for their journey to Shenwu Continent.

The deck at the front end of the ship was vast, with a wide view, and thus most martial artists gathered there. In contrast, the space on the deck at the rear of the ship was much smaller, and fewer martial artists chose to enjoy the nighttime scenery there.

At this moment, Fang Bai stood with his arms behind his back on the deck at the rear of the ship, silently gazing at the distant sea, his expression tinged with a trace of worry.

These past few days, with nothing much to do on the ship, Fang Bai had explained the arcana of Martial Dao to Su Linglong and the others. They had insights and, filled with excitement, each went back to their rooms to meditate and quietly cultivate, still in a Cultivation State.

Fang Bai knew that once they began their cultivation, it would be at least three to five days or as long as ten days to half a month before they emerged from their Cultivation State. With nothing else to occupy him, he too began cultivating in his room.

Previously, in order to throw off the pursuit from Misty Island's ships, Fang Bai had used almost all of his high-quality Essence Stones to power the ship's passage. Moreover, the amount of Cultivation Resources he needed for cultivation was several times more than martial artists of the same realm, so after a few days, the Cultivation Resources in his Spatial Ring were depleted.

Lacking Cultivation Resources, Fang Bai had no choice but to end his cultivation and walked alone onto the outer deck.

Because Fang Bai had previously exhibited formidable strength, saving the lives of the thousands of martial artists on the ship from danger on several occasions, the martial artists on the ship all held him in high regard. Seeing him appear on the deck, they distanced themselves from him, fearing that they might disturb him.

Seeing this, Fang Bai could not help but smile wryly and shake his head, yet he also enjoyed the quietude. Standing on the deck and looking out at the distant sea, the face of Madam Linghu, filled with a cold and deadly beauty, emerged in his mind.

"Brother Fang, are you troubled by something?"

A voice as soft as clouds sounded from behind him, followed by a faint scent that wafted into his nostrils.

"Qian Jiao, have you arrived? How much of the Martial Dao Arcane I explained a few days ago have you understood?"

Fang Bai slowly turned around, looking at Linghu Qianjiao who stood before him with her black hair elegantly swept up, clad in a white dress, pure and untainted like a white lotus, and asked with a smile.

Every movement of the thousands of Martial Artists on this sea ship was under the envelopment of Fang Bai's Divine Sense. He had sensed it the moment Linghu Qianjiao finished her Cultivation practice.

"Brother Fang, you haven't answered my question yet!"

Linghu Qianjiao's beautiful eyes blinked lightly, her lips curved into a smile, her tone carrying a hint of playful reproach.

Linghu Qianjiao, though reticent and not fond of talking, was extremely attentive. She had noticed a trace of concern occasionally appearing in Fang Bai's demeanor several days ago, but there had been no opportunity to inquire. Now that they were the only two nearby, she couldn't help but ask.

In Linghu Qianjiao's view, anything that could cause Fang Bai concern must be very important.

"Me? What worries could I have? I'm just enjoying the night scenery here! Look, how beautiful the moonlight is!"

Fang Bai pointed at the bright moon hanging in the sky and spoke cheerfully.

Linghu Qianjiao's expression dimmed, her eyelids drooping as she said softly, "Brother Fang, are you unwilling to share your worries with Qian Jiao?"

Fang Bai smiled bitterly, waving his hands and saying, "What are you thinking about? It's just a small matter, not worth mentioning..."

Linghu Qianjiao lifted her right arm, using her fingers to straighten strands of hair tousled by the sea breeze. Her lips pursed slightly, forming a lovely curve as she said, "If it's something private, Brother Fang, you can keep it in your heart; I won't ask further. But if it doesn't involve privacy, there's no harm in sharing with Qian Jiao. Perhaps I can help Brother Fang ease his worries."

Under the moonlight, Linghu Qianjiao in her white dress had a grace and beauty like jade. As she raised her arm, her sleeve slid down, revealing a section of her slender, snow-white wrist, even more luminous than the moonlight.

Fang Bai saw this, and his heart fluttered.

Originally, Fang Bai didn't want to disclose his inner concerns to Linghu Qianjiao and others, afraid that they would worry and be frightened, but faced with Linghu Qianjiao's somber inquiry, he couldn't continue to hide it.

"In the past few days, I've had the constant feeling that Madam Linghu is hauntingly pursuing us... My instincts are usually very accurate, and it may not be long before she appears within our sight."

Fang Bai's gaze returned to the distant sea. He continued, "Madam Linghu's Cultivation Level has reached the Half-Step Innate Realm. Even if I exert all my strength, I am no match for her. If she really catches up with us, with her power alone, she could turn our ship upside down, with unimaginable consequences!"

Linghu Qianjiao could imagine the astounding strength of a being more powerful than a Martial Artist at the Universe Level perfection. She knew Fang Bai's words were not false.

Despite that, Linghu Qianjiao still asked unwillingly, "There are nearly a thousand Martial Artists on this sea ship. If we join forces, can't we defeat Madam Linghu?"

Fang Bai replied, "If a thousand people could act as one, of course we could defeat Madam Linghu, but that's simply not possible. Moreover, Madam Linghu wouldn't be foolish enough to confront thousands of Martial Artists face-to-face."

Linghu Qianjiao frowned and asked, "If Madam Linghu really catches up, what do we do? Is there no way to deal with her?"

Fang Bai shook his head and sighed.

Chapter 1215: Life and Death Together, Fortune and Misfortune Side by Side

In the Martial Dao World, power is revered above all. Even the smartest minds and most cunning schemes cannot withstand the might of indestructible fists.

If Madam Linghu truly comes pursuing, with her formidable strength alone, she could sweep through all the Martial Artists on this sea vessel.

Even Fang Bai, who possesses the ability to challenge those beyond his level, cannot contend with her.

That is why Fang Bai is worried.

"Meet force with force, dam water with earth. If Madam Linghu does not pursue us, then all is well. Should she come after us, let's join forces and fight with all our might. As for life and death, leave that to fate."

Linghu Qianjiao said softly with a faint smile.

Her demeanor is gentle and uncontentious, and she views the potential life-or-death crisis with a certain detachment.

For Fang Bai, who has lived through millennia and reborn in two lifetimes, he no longer dwells on life or death. His actual concern lies solely in the safety of Linghu Qianjiao and the others.

"I've learned the unspeakable secrets of Misty Island, the one Madam Linghu truly wants to kill is likely me. If my life can be exchanged for your safety..."

"Don't speak of such inauspicious things!"

Before Fang Bai could finish his sentence, a white figure flashed in front of him, and a fragrant breeze fluttered as Linghu Qianjiao's palm gently covered his mouth.

"Brother Fang, we already knew each other in the Secular World, and you survived many life-and-death crises back then, always emerging from danger unscathed. It shows that you are a man of deep fortune; this time, nothing will happen to you... absolutely nothing!"

As Linghu Qianjiao spoke, her voice trembled slightly. In her eyes, brighter than the moonlight, a layer of mist appeared.

Fang Bai reflected on his life since his rebirth; indeed, as Linghu Qianjiao described, from the Secular World to the True Martial Realm, he faced numerous life-and-death crises, surviving each as if indestructible, growing stronger each time.

Even Fang Bai felt that heaven truly favored him, and Linghu Qianjiao's words about his deep fortune seemed quite reasonable.

"Everyone's life can't always be smooth sailing. Even if I'm lucky, that luck will run out someday..."

"Brother Fang..."

Fang Bai was interrupted by Linghu Qianjiao once again.

"If...if you truly meet your demise, I will follow you, joining you on the Netherworld Road!"

Linghu Qianjiao looked up at Fang Bai, her lips trembling slightly and her eyes tearful as she spoke.

Though her voice was soft, her tone was extremely resolute.

Linghu Qianjiao values deep relationships and is fiercely loyal, dedicating her whole heart to those she loves.

Among Fang Bai's confidantes, Linghu Qianjiao might not have known him the longest, but her devotion is no less than anyone.

Fang Bai believes that if he indeed perishes at the hands of Madam Linghu, Linghu Qianjiao would immediately end her own life.

"You silly girl!"

As Fang Bai watched Linghu Qianjiao, her garments fluttering in the sea breeze making her seem fragile, he was moved and held her small hand that covered his mouth in his palms.

"Enough of this talk of death. I was only joking! My life is my own, not dictated by fate. Let alone Madam Linghu, even the heavens can't take my life so easily! In any case, no one can take Fang Bai's life!"

Fang Bai declared dominantly, his face showing no hint of worry.

Fang Bai was not truly free from worry; instead, he deeply concealed his concerns within his heart.

He did not want his emotions to affect those around him, causing them to become pessimistic and despairing.

"Brother Fang, promise me, no matter what happens in the future, we will face it together, hand in hand, in life and death, sharing our fortunes and misfortunes. Okay?"

Linghu Qian Jiao slightly leaned her body and slowly moved closer into Fang Bai's embrace, softly speaking.

With a gentle stretch of his arm, Fang Bai enveloped Linghu Qian Jiao's waist, pulling her into his arms, and whispered into her ear, "Okay, I promise you!"

The warm breath he exhaled as he spoke entered Linghu Qian Jiao's ears, making her cheeks blush and her earlobes heat up. She felt as if all her strength was being drawn out, her legs tremblingly weak. If not for Fang Bai's arm holding her, she could barely stand.

Fang Bai smiled slightly, tightening his grip, holding Linghu Qian Jiao closer, their bodies touching, feeling each other's warmth.

Some Martial Artists standing far away on the deck cast envious glances towards them occasionally. Initially, Linghu Qian Jiao was somewhat shy, but later she relaxed, gently wrapping her delicate arms around Fang Bai's waist and resting her head comfortably on his chest.

The two cuddled together, facing the sea, watching the silver moonlight casting over the surging waves and listening to the sound of the waves gently slapping the ship, a serenity filling their hearts.

As the night progressed, the sea breeze grew stronger, and thick clouds covered the moon in the night sky, turning everything pitch black.

The Martial Artists standing on deck found it uninteresting and returned to their rooms one after another.

"Qian Jiao, you should go back to your room and rest too."

Fang Bai gently patted Linghu Qian Jiao's shoulder, steadying her body, and spoke softly.

"And you?"

Linghu Qian Jiao looked up at Fang Bai, her eyes brimming with tender affection, her demeanor and tone a bit languid.

She had just been leaning in Fang Bai's embrace, feeling as warm and safe as a bird returning to its nest or a ship entering the harbor, completely relaxed, nearly falling asleep. Now, leaving Fang Bai's embrace, she felt reluctant.

"I, of course, will also go back to rest!"

Fang Bai spoke while casting a glance towards the dark sea in the distance, his eyes briefly flashing.

After watching Linghu Qian Jiao enter her room, Fang Bai also vanished into his own room.

Unlike Linghu Qian Jiao who immediately began meditating upon returning to her room, Fang Bai quickly wrote down a few sentences on paper and placed them in a conspicuous spot in the room, then concealed his presence and left the room again.

Facing the pitch-black sea, Fang Bai took a deep breath, his expression turning serious and stern.

"May this separation bring us both safety and peace. I hope that we can reunite in Shenwu Continent soon!"

Fang Bai turned his head, his gaze sweeping past the rooms of Su Linglong and others, then took a deep breath and, with a resolute expression, leapt over the high railing of the ship, soaring towards the sea like Dapeng spreading its wings.

Fang Bai left without a sound; even the crew member on the ship's highest watchtower did not notice anything.

Fang Bai circulated Wind Essence Qi, his body floating down as light as cotton, and just before reaching the sea, he took a wooden plank several feet long from his Spatial Ring and threw it down.

The plank hit the water and bobbed on the wavy surface, and Fang Bai's figure then landed on the plank. Using the buoyancy of the plank, he wouldn't fall into the water even without using Essence Energy.

Fang Bai stepped on the plank, adjusted the direction, and drove both Wind Essence Qi and Water Element Qi, using the wind and the current to shoot away in the direction opposite to the ship like an arrow.

Far from the ship, on the sea surface, a stunningly beautiful woman stood on the back of a gigantic Sea Beast, her mouth curled into a sinister smile, her gaze as sharp as a knife.

Chapter 1216: Lingering Evil Spirit

"On this Purgatory Sea, no one can escape from the hands of Madam Linghu!"

Standing on the back of a sea beast, the beautiful woman looked towards the direction of the sea ship carrying Fang Bai and others, muttering to herself.

The beautiful woman was none other than Madam Linghu.

More than ten days ago, Fang Bai's sea ship fled from Misty Island, while a few Mist Island sea ships chasing them were surrounded by a group of Demon Dragon Scorpions controlled by Fang Bai using the Beast Taming Scripture.

Later, as Fang Bai's sea ship moved farther away, the group of Demon Dragon Scorpions was driven off by Madam Linghu using the Beast Taming Scripture, allowing the few sea ships from Misty Island to escape the siege.

However, when the Mist Island sea ships tried to pursue Fang Bai's sea ship again, they could no longer find the trace of that sea ship.

But this did not stump Madam Linghu; earlier, when Fang Bai's sea ship was docked at the Mist Island Port, islanders secretly placed several of Madam Linghu's specially made "Tracking Stones" in hidden parts of the sea ship.

The so-called "Tracking Stones" are actually high-grade Wood Element Stones, into which Madam Linghu had infused her unique Essence Energy, allowing her to track the familiar aura all the way here on the vast Purgatory Sea and successfully approach Fang Bai's sea ship tonight.

The giant sea beast under Madam Linghu was known as "Snow Swine."

Although the Snow Swine was massive in size, it was gentle-natured and not carnivorous, exhibiting no aggressiveness, making it a rare "gentleman" in the Purgatory Sea.

Though the Snow Swine belonged to the "gentle" family amongst the sea beasts, its flesh naturally contained potent toxins, deterring even the most ferocious sea beasts from daring to consume it.

Thus, the Snow Swine, being unattacked by other sea beasts, became one of the Spirit Beast clans in the Purgatory Sea that least had to worry about life-threatening dangers.

Besides its toxic flesh which kept other sea beasts at bay, the Snow Swine also swam much faster than the majority of sea beasts.

When a few Mist Island sea ships were chasing Fang Bai's sea ship and encountered a group of Snow Swine, Madam Linghu, who found the sea ships too slow, immediately abandoned the ships, took control of the group of Snow Swine using the Beast Taming Art, and then leapt onto the back of the leading swine, urging it to pursue Fang Bai's sea ship.

With its gentle nature and enduring stamina, Madam Linghu, standing on its back, neither had to worry about safety nor fret about slow speed.

Moreover, with numerous Snow Swine present, when one got tired, she could switch to another, thus maintaining a high speed continuously.

If not for the Snow Swine, it would have taken Madam Linghu much longer to catch up to Fang Bai's sea ship, and she might not have been able to catch up at all.

Although the night was pitch black, the sea ship where Fang Bai was had Essence Stones for illumination, and though Madam Linghu was still several miles away from the sea ship, she could faintly see the light emanating from it.

The aura released from the few "Tracking Stones" on the sea ship also confirmed to Madam Linghu that it was indeed the sea ship where Fang Bai was.

However, despite Madam Linghu's keen eyesight, she failed to notice Fang Bai, who had become one with the night, jumping off the sea ship and stepping onto a plank heading towards her.

Fang Bai, who had a sharp sense for danger, had felt uneasy the moment Madam Linghu started chasing them despite being far away, occasionally releasing his Divine Sense to scout the surroundings within several miles of the sea ship.

As Madam Linghu urged the flock of Snow Swine to approach the vicinity of the ship Fang Bai was on, she was immediately sensed by Fang Bai's Divine Sense.

Fang Bai knew that Madam Linghu was extremely powerful, and if she were to catch up with the ship, no one could stand in her way, including everyone on board, who might become her targets.

Therefore, upon spotting Madam Linghu, Fang Bai decisively chose to use himself as bait to lure her away, knowing his own life would be at risk, but it would ensure safety for Su Linglong and the others.

After coaxing Linghu Qian Jiao back to her room and leaving a brief note explaining the situation, he told Su Linglong and the others to meet later at Huaxia Sect in Shenwu Continent, and then stealthily leapt from the ship to confront Madam Linghu.

Madam Linghu and Fang Bai charged towards each other at immense speed and soon met on the ocean.

"Good lad, I wondered who it might be, and it turns out to be you!"

Madam Linghu, seeing Fang Bai approaching over the waves on a wooden board, let a flash of surprise pass through her eyes, followed immediately by a look of delight.

Her surprise was because not only did Fang Bai detect her, but he also had the courage to leave the ship and get close to her, which was akin to a moth flying towards flame—a pathway to death.

And to travel from the distant ship to here across the planks, even she, a Half-Step Innate Expert, would expend a considerable amount of True Yuan. Yet, Fang Bai appeared effortless, suggesting he not only had immense power but also cultivated a High-Rank Cultivation Technique.

Her delight stemmed from the belief that Fang Bai merely possessed both the Fire and Wood Innate Spiritual Roots, only to discover he also had the Innate Water Spirit Root. Such a martial artist possessing three types of Innate Spiritual Roots was unprecedented in the True Martial Realm.

Thus, for Madam Linghu, who needed someone of the opposite sex to cultivate her Evil Cultivation Technique and elevate her Cultivation Level, Fang Bai was akin to a mobile humanoid cultivation treasury. Utilizing his body could offer a chance to break through the cultivation bottleneck that had troubled her for years, advancing to the Innate Realm.

Once attaining the Innate Realm, one truly stands at the peak of the Martial Dao in this world, regards other Martial Artists as mere ants, and can even extend their lifespan beyond two hundred years, a dream of every Martial Artist.

One could say Fang Bai's usefulness to Madam Linghu transcended any Spirit Pill or miraculous medicine in this world. Hence, Madam Linghu secretly vowed that no matter what, she could not let Fang Bai escape again.

"Old witch, you even chased here, you really are persistent!"

Fang Bai, riding the boards and cutting through the waves, moved just as swiftly as the Snow Swine under Madam Linghu's feet.

Hearing the term "old witch", Madam Linghu's rage exploded, wishing she could smash Fang Bai with a slap, but reminded of his body being an excellent Cultivation Furnace Cauldron, she realized that his death would be an irreplaceable loss to her, and thus, she forcefully suppressed the rage in her chest.

"Last time, you tricked me and managed to escape, that was your fate. This time, trying the same trick won't be so easy!"

Madam Linghu said through gritted teeth.

In Madam Linghu's eyes, Fang Bai was already like a fish on the chopping board, completely at her mercy.

"Heh... old witch, catch me if you can! Let me tell you the truth, I not only have the Water, Wood, and Fire Innate Spiritual Roots but also possess many High-Rank Essence Stones and Elixirs in my Spatial Ring; I have several sets of Innate Martial Arts Techniques; my Beast Taming Art is more proficient than yours; I am also an Alchemist, Artifact Refiner, and Array Master..."

Fang Bai listed many of his advantages in one breath, aiming to increase his value in Madam Linghu's eyes, enticing her to abandon chasing the ship and instead pursue him.

Chapter 1217: Heading South

Above the sea, the wind howled and the waves rushed fiercely, yet Fang Bai's voice pierced through the hundred-meter barrier of wind and waves, clearly reaching Madam Linghu's ears.

With each word Fang Bai spoke, Madam Linghu's gaze became a shade brighter.

"If what this lad is saying is true, then as long as I capture him and force out all his secrets, it's even possible for me to become the strongest in the True Martial Realm!"

For the first time, Madam Linghu felt that she was so close to the Innate Realm; in her excitement, her heart nearly leapt from her chest.

After saying those words, Fang Bai's feet gently pressed down, steering the plank beneath him, and he charged towards the pitch-black sea.

The ship was sailing eastward, and Madam Linghu was blocked off to the west; hence, after a brief moment of contemplation, Fang Bai chose to escape towards the south.

It is said that the south of the True Martial Realm is extremely hot, and the north is extremely cold, and among the seven types of Essence Energy forming the Chaos Origin Energy in Fang Bai's Qi Sea, the Fire Primordial Qi was the most pure and robust.

Thus, Fang Bai felt that luring Madam Linghu to the south would be more advantageous for him to utilize his strength and increase his chances of getting away.

What Fang Bai was most hoping for was to encounter powerful Sea Beasts along the way, at which point he could use the Beast Taming Art to control them; even if he couldn't drive away Madam Linghu, he could at least delay her for some time to aid his escape.

"Brat, if you escape from me again this time, I, Madam Linghu, shall renounce the world!"

Madam Linghu, who had pursued thousands of miles, originally intended to annihilate all the Martial Artists on the ship, including Fang Bai, to quell the hatred in her heart. But after hearing the words that had suddenly touched her heart, Fang Bai became her sole target.

Seeing Fang Bai trying to flee, without a second thought, Madam Linghu forcefully stomped on the Snow Swine beneath her. In pain, the beast immediately twisted its huge tail and chased after Fang Bai.

As for that ship sailing towards the Oriental Divine Martial State, Madam Linghu no longer had the leisure to pay attention to it.

In Madam Linghu's eyes, the thousands of Martial Artists aboard that ship combined were far less important than a single Fang Bai.

Madam Linghu had originally thought that Fang Bai, maneuvering a small plank on the sea, would eventually run out of Essence Energy, and once his speed slowed, she could easily catch him and bring him back to Misty Island.

But unexpectedly, Fang Bai could absorb Essence Energy from nature anytime he wished, and the Wind Essence Qi and Water Element Qi he needed to drive the plank were most abundant on this stormy sea, virtually inexhaustible.

As Fang Bai drove the plank forward, for every strand of Essence Energy consumed within his body, he would absorb another strand. Although the consumption rate of Essence Energy was slightly faster than the rate of absorption, this greatly slowed the depletion of Fang Bai's Essence Energy.

The two of them, one chasing and the other fleeing, continued southward, and by dawn, they had traveled several hundred miles without showing any signs of Fang Bai slowing down.

"After escaping for so long, that kid's Essence Energy doesn't seem to have weakened much. He can't possibly be an Innate Expert, which means, he must have cultivated an Innate Technique!"

Watching Fang Bai, who consistently maintained a distance of over a hundred meters ahead, Madam Linghu's heart filled with more and more surprise.

She had heard before that if a Martial Artist had cultivated an Innate Technique, or if their cultivation level had reached the Innate Realm, they could absorb Essence Energy from nature at any time, hence their Essence Energy was nearly endless.

Putting together the clues from the things Fang Bai had said before, Madam Linghu had already concluded that Fang Bai truly possessed Martial Arts Techniques of the Innate Technique, and he had indeed cultivated them.

Normally, only Martial Artists who had achieved perfection at the Universe Level realm could cultivate Martial Arts Techniques of the Innate Technique, otherwise, their meridians were very likely to be unable to withstand the high-speed circulation of Essence Energy and get damaged.

But Fang Bai possessed three types of Innate Spiritual Roots in one body, his physique was extremely strong, and perhaps he could withstand the shock brought about by cultivating Martial Arts Techniques of the Innate Technique.

"I've truly stumbled upon a treasure this time!"

Madam Linghu was extremely excited; she could hardly wait to catch up with Fang Bai and capture him.

With a flash of green light, an extremely dense Wood Element Qi suddenly surged up. It was unknown when a stalk of Spirit Fox Grass appeared in Madam Linghu's hand.

This Spirit Fox Grass had a medicinal age far exceeding a thousand years, and its quality had reached the limit of high-grade Spiritual Medicines. It was five feet tall, with roots as thick as an arm, harder than steel.

Madam Linghu had obtained this stalk of Spirit Fox Grass several decades ago during a training journey. After arriving at Misty Island, she made her home upon the island and often held the Spirit Fox Grass in her hand, using it as a Spiritual Artifact when confronting enemies.

It is from this stalk of Spirit Fox Grass that she derived her name, Madam Linghu.

"Put in more effort, chase after him!"

Madam Linghu commanded and struck the Snow Swine under her harshly with the Spirit Fox Grass in her hand.

Pained, the Snow Swine's massive body shuddered and let out a cry like that of a baby, as if its potential had been ignited, its swimming speed suddenly increased.

"This is bad!"

Fang Bai sensed that the aura of Madam Linghu was rapidly approaching from behind, he turned his head for a glance, only to see the Snow Swine frantically darting towards him underneath her feet, instantly closing almost half the distance between them, which startled him.

During the previous chase, Fang Bai had attempted to control the Snow Swine beneath Madam Linghu, but to no avail.

Fang Bai immediately knew that Madam Linghu must have been aware that his Beast Taming Art was far superior to hers. After gaining control of that Snow Swine, she had sabotaged its hearing.

As such, the Snow Swine couldn't respond to Fang Bai's calls and was left completely under the control of Madam Linghu alone.

Fang Bai sighed and could only give his all to continue controlling the wooden board beneath his feet to move forward.

After just tens of breaths, the distance between them had shrunk to just a few meters.

"Young man, surrender now or I will kill you with one palm strike!"

Madam Linghu believed that Fang Bai was now under her control and could no longer escape. In her pride, she couldn't help but laugh out loud.

But before her laughter ceased, Fang Bai struck back with two palms; his left hand gathered Wind Essence Qi into a small storm, and his right hand turned Water Element Qi into a giant wave, both sweeping towards her.

"Good lad, so this is your true strength, isn't it?"

Madam Linghu felt the aura of a Universe Level Expert between these two palms from Fang Bai, and her heart secretly trembled in fear, only now realizing that Fang Bai had all this time been concealing his true power, even she, a Half-Step Innate Expert, hadn't detected it.

A Universe Level Expert in his early twenties was unprecedented in the True Martial Realm; even the most favored sons and daughters of top Sects would feel ashamed in comparison.

Despite being shocked by Fang Bai's true strength that was now revealed, but facing Fang Bai's attack, Madam Linghu, with her Half-Step Innate strength, was naturally unafraid.

She waved her right arm lightly, and the Spirit Fox Grass in her hand emitted a series of green glows, forming a Wood Element Qi defensive wall in front of the storm and the wave of water that came from Fang Bai's distant strikes.

Chapter 1218: Confrontation at Sea

Amidst the booming sound, Fang Bai's full-force storm and water wave attacks were blocked by the Wood Element Qi defense wall created by Madam Linghu. It roared furiously like a beast trapped in a cage, before finally calming down submissively.

Fang Bai was self-aware and didn't expect that strike to have much effect; his purpose was merely to slow down Madam Linghu's chasing speed.

"I have to admit, you are one of the rare talents among young martial artists, but before me, the bright moon, you are merely a firefly. How can the light of a firefly compete with the moon?"

Madam Linghu effortlessly neutralized Fang Bai's attack, with a mocking smile appearing on her lips, and let out a cold laugh.

Fang Bai ignored her, and as he launched the attack, he accelerated the wooden board beneath his feet and moved swiftly across the sea surface under the increasingly bright sky.

"No matter how much you struggle and flee, it's futile! Becoming my Furnace Cauldron is your destiny! Accept your fate!"

Madam Linghu laughed loudly, continuing the pursuit with her Snow Swine.

When the distance between them closed to just a few meters again, Fang Bai swiftly struck out several palms, impeding Madam Linghu while using the force to accelerate forward.

After repeating this, the two maintained a certain distance, and throughout the hundred-mile journey across the sea, Madam Linghu failed to capture Fang Bai, whom she considered as good as caught, which left her increasingly frustrated.

"Young man, if you don't stop now, don't blame me for being ruthless!"

Madam Linghu suddenly shouted sternly.

"Stopping now would be foolish!"

Fang Bai muttered internally, disregarding Madam Linghu's threat.

"You are courting death!"

Seeing Fang Bai completely ignoring her, Madam Linghu became infuriated, a fierce glint flickering in her eyes as killing qi rose around her.

"Swoosh!"

A green light, like lightning, burst forth from Madam Linghu's hand, tearing through a hundred meters of space, leaving a long trail behind, with a sharp whistling sound, it aimed at Fang Bai's left calf.

Fang Bai, periodically using his Divine Sense to detect Madam Linghu's movements, maneuvered the wooden board beneath his feet to dodge to one side once the green light was unleashed.

The green light was a high-grade Wood Element Stone.

As the distance between them was considerable, Madam Linghu couldn't directly use Spiritual Energy to attack, so she sent the Essence Stone as a hidden weapon, aiming to injure Fang Bai's leg, rendering him unable to continue propelling the wooden board.

"Eh?"

Madam Linghu thought that even if her thrown Essence Stone didn't injure Fang Bai, it should at least force him into a frantic state, thereby slowing him down. However, it seemed like Fang Bai had eyes on the back of his head, as he easily dodged it.

Swoosh!

Swoosh!

Swoosh!

Swoosh!

Essence Energy surged, the green light flashed again.

This time, Madam Linghu launched four Wood Element Stones at once, their speed and force surpassing the first one earlier.

The four Wood Element Stones, three of them flew out in a "品" shape formation, sealing off the left, right, and above spaces Fang Bai could dodge to, while another Wood Element Stone still targeted Fang Bai's right lower leg.

Thus, unless Fang Bai submerged himself into the sea, there was no way to avoid them.

But if Fang Bai sank into the sea, his speed of movement would undoubtedly be significantly reduced, making it extremely difficult to escape Madam Linghu's pursuit later on.

Madam Linghu had thought Fang Bai would exert all his efforts to dodge the Essence Stones she launched, but to her surprise, Fang Bai stood on the wooden board, dodging nothing, holding instead a blade-shaped Spiritual Artifact in his hand.

The three Wood Element Stones launched from the left, right, and above were meant to block Fang Bai's dodging space. As long as Fang Bai stayed still, the three Wood Element Stones posed no threat to him, he only needed to focus on the one targeting his left lower leg.

The four swooshing Wood Element Stones instantly reached Fang Bai, three of them passing over his head and sides, their potent Essence Energy causing Fang Bai's hair to flutter chaotically and his clothes to rustle, his skin tingling with pain.

The Wood Element Stone aimed at Fang Bai's left lower leg was forcibly blocked by the blade-shaped Spiritual Artifact swung in Fang Bai's roaring voice, just a few feet away from him.

Being a Half-Step Innate Expert, although Fang Bai successfully blocked her thrown Essence Stone, the powerful impact within the Essence Stone still knocked him back and sent him flying several meters towards the sea.

Although Fang Bai had the ability to challenge those beyond his level, he was after all only a beginner at the Cosmic Level; exerting all his strength, he could only contend with a beginner at the Universe Level. Hence, Madam Linghu's strike caused him a slight disadvantage.

Fortunately, Fang Bai was only knocked back without injury, and his quick reaction allowed him to throw another wooden board under his feet upon descending, where he managed to land and steady himself just in time.

Had it not been for that wooden board, Fang Bai would have already fallen into the sea. Though he possessed an Innate Water Spirit Root and was close to water, falling into it meant not moving as freely as on the water surface, unable to effectively dodge Madam Linghu's subsequent attacks.

"Just a casually thrown Essence Stone and its power is already so formidable! This old demoness's strength should not be underestimated!"

Fang Bai had just brought out the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade to block the high-grade Wood Essence Stone thrown by Madam Linghu. If not for the abnormal sturdiness of the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, it might have been shattered by the Essence Stone's force.

"That blade...such intense aura! I can't even discern its grade! Could it be higher than a high-grade Spiritual Artifact?"

Fang Bai inwardly exclaimed in surprise, and so did Madam Linghu.

The Essence Stone launched by Madam Linghu, even when colliding with a high-grade Spiritual Artifact, would leave some mark, but the blade-shaped Spiritual Artifact in Fang Bai's hand showed no damage.

Moreover, Madam Linghu noticed that the blade-shaped Spiritual Artifact not only blocked her thrown Essence Stone but seemed to dissipate almost half of the Essence Stone's impact force, or else Fang Bai wouldn't have just been knocked back a few meters.

Madam Linghu was astonished in her heart, realizing that the blade-shaped Spiritual Artifact Fang Bai held was extraordinary, her gaze firmly fixed on it as she scrutinized carefully.

"There's no need to keep looking; this Spiritual Artifact surpasses high-grade. If you can catch me, it's yours!"

Seeing the greed in Madam Linghu's eyes, Fang Bai raised the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade in his hand and shouted loudly.

After speaking, he forcefully maneuvered the wooden board to continue south, doing his best to lead Madam Linghu further away.

"A Spiritual Artifact surpassing high-grade... could it possibly be a legendary Holy Grade Spiritual Artifact?"

Hearing Fang Bai utter "far surpasses high-grade," Madam Linghu's heart trembled, she murmured to herself, her eyes starting to blaze with fervor.

"Pursue! Pursue him! We must not let him escape no matter what!"

Madam Linghu stamped her foot, yelling fiercely. She repeatedly poked the Spirit Fox Grass on the Snow Swine beneath her, aiming to unleash its full potential for faster swimming.

Her once beautiful face contorted with excitement, agitation, and other fierce emotions, appearing somewhat ghastly and terrifying.

Chapter 1219: Essence Energy Whip

During the subsequent chase, Madam Linghu launched a furious attack each time she closed the distance with Fang Bai, using Essence Stones.

When she attacked, it was no longer just a few Essence Stones, but rather, she hurled a dozen or even dozens of them at once.

Her assaults came wave after wave, as Essence Stones filled the sky and densely swarmed towards Fang Bai.

Fang Bai had no other option but to gather Essence Energy behind him to form a Defense Qi Shield, while waving the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade in his hand to create a barrier of blade screens, blocking the mass of Essence Stones continuously attacking from behind.

The Essence Stones crashed into the blade screen, making incessant "ding ding dang dang" sounds.

With each block against the Essence Stone attacks, Fang Bai was knocked back by the powerful impact, and his arms holding the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade were numbed and sore.

"This old witch is crazy, it looks like she wants my life!"

Fang Bai, overwhelmed by Madam Linghu's relentless attacks, was kept busy and exhausted, internally groaning in hardship.

He initially thought that Madam Linghu would do everything possible to capture him alive and then force him to reveal his secrets, thus not killing him. But now, it seemed that Madam Linghu was no longer holding back.

"It must be because of the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade."

Fang Bai, quick-witted, soon realized this and couldn't help but wryly smile to himself.

When Fang Bai had earlier revealed the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade and claimed that this blade surpassed high-grade Spiritual Artifacts, Madam Linghu began to attack frenziedly without any hesitation.

Fang Bai deduced that Madam Linghu wanted to kill him and take the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade for herself.

With the aid of the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, Madam Linghu, whose Cultivation Level had reached the Half-Step Innate Realm, would significantly increase her combat power, enabling her to contend with true Innate Experts.

With the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, Madam Linghu also became less desperate to acquire his Innate Martial Arts Techniques.

Moreover, having chased him over thousands of miles of sea, she might have lost her patience and no longer wanted to engage in a prolonged struggle with him. Since it was difficult to catch up and capture him alive, it would be easier to kill him and snatch the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade.

Moreover, by killing him and acquiring his Spatial Ring, she could also obtain his Martial Arts Techniques and a large amount of high-grade Cultivation Resources—it's just that she wouldn't be able to learn more sophisticated Beast Taming Arts directly from him.

Compared to the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade, Innate Martial Arts Techniques, and abundant high-grade Cultivation Resources, the Beast Taming Art became unimportant to Madam Linghu.

With these considerations, it must be why Madam Linghu decisively chose to relentlessly chase him, intending to kill him without mercy.

Under the fierce onslaught of Essence Stones, Fang Bai's arms grew increasingly numb, his speed of wielding the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade dropped, and breaches began to appear in the blade screen. That allowed a few Essence Stones to exploit the gaps, penetrate his blade screen, tear through his Defense Qi Shield, and strike his body.

Although Fang Bai possessed the rarely seen Chaos True Body, which granted him an extremely resilient physique, his Cultivation Level was still far below Madam Linghu's, just like a child excelling among peers but struggling against an adult's attack.

Those Essence Stones, imbued with the profound Essence Energy of a Half-Step Innate Expert, would have severely injured a weaker Martial Artist, depriving them of their ability to fight.

For Fang Bai, although the Essence Stones caused numerous wounds on his body, most were superficial and did not damage his vital internal organs.

His formidable Chaos True Body still provided a very effective defense.

As more Essence Stones hit Fang Bai, his clothes quickly became tattered, and he was covered with wounds, with blood continuously seeping out from many tiny cuts, soaking his clothes, making him look like a bloodied man.

"Actually being able to withstand my Essence Stone attacks with his physical body, what kind of constitution does this kid have?"

Madam Linghu looked at Fang Bai as if she had seen a ghost, her face full of disbelief.

Although she was attacking with Essence Stones, their destructive power was so strong that even a Universe Level perfection expert would find it hard to endure, yet Fang Bai, who was far from reaching that level of strength, was able to withstand her continuous attacks without suffering major injuries, which sufficiently illustrated how formidable Fang Bai's constitution was.

At least in Madam Linghu's view, Fang Bai's constitution was something she had never heard or seen before.

"Let's see how long you can hold on!"

Although Fang Bai's formidable constitution astonished Madam Linghu, she firmly believed that it wouldn't be long before Fang Bai would lose his ability to resist and fall by her hand.

Madam Linghu's attacks became increasingly fierce, giving Fang Bai no chance to catch his breath, forcing Fang Bai to muster all his focus and energy to defend himself. As a result, the rate at which he absorbed Essence Energy fell far behind the rate at which he was using it, his defensive power weakened progressively, and the speed at which he moved forward on the wooden planks also slowed down.

"Boy, your time of death has arrived!"

As the disparity in their strength waxed and waned, they soon came within a distance of less than ten meters.

At this distance, Madam Linghu could directly deploy attacks using Essence Energy, which were incomparably more formidable than her previous Essence Stone attacks.

"Whoosh!"

A sharp, ear-piercing sound of breaking air came from behind Fang Bai, and within a radius of several meters, green light flashed. It was Madam Linghu condensing Wood Element Qi, forming an Essence Energy Whip in her hand, lashing toward Fang Bai.

Fang Bai, with his keen sense of crisis, felt his scalp tingle and his hair stand on end the moment Madam Linghu's Essence Energy Whip was unleashed. He knew he couldn't take this whip head-on as it would cause him serious damage.

Although Fang Bai was no match for Madam Linghu, he had many life-preserving techniques. Facing Madam Linghu's fierce attack, he naturally wouldn't sit idly by.

Almost simultaneously with Madam Linghu wielding her Essence Energy Whip, the Chaos Origin Energy within Fang Bai's Qi Sea started spinning rapidly, drawing a massive amount of Wind Essence Qi from the surroundings into Fang Bai's body.

At the same time, a pure and refined stream of Wind Essence Qi separated from the Chaos Origin Energy, surged out of the Qi Sea, merging with the large amount of Wind Essence Qi entering his body, gathering toward Fang Bai's back like a surging, torrential river.

"Wind Wings, condense!"

Fang Bai suddenly spread his arms wide and let out a roar to the sky.

As he roared, the surging Wind Essence Qi burst from his shoulder blades, using his shoulder bones as the base, condensing into a pair of massive Wind Essence Qi wings.

With a thought, Fang Bai's Wind Essence Qi wings flapped, creating a violent gust, lifting his body into the sky.

Just as he took flight, Madam Linghu's Essence Energy Whip struck where he had just been standing, the fierce might of the Wood Element Qi turning the wooden plank at that spot into powder, stirring up a large wave.

Chapter 1220: A Desperate Fight

Fang Bai flapped his wings and soared high, hovering dozens of feet above the sea surface.

At that time, the morning sun had already risen high, with thousands of golden rays shining upon Fang Bai, as if draping him in a layer of golden armor.

The wings of Wind Essence Qi behind him were as insubstantial as cicada wings, trembling in the sea breeze, amidst the turquoise sea, blue sky, white clouds, and sunlight... All sorts of colors reflected upon them, enchantingly beautiful, like a dream or illusion.

"How is it possible... How is it possible... He can actually form wings out of Essence Energy..."

Madam Linghu looked up at Fang Bai, who was suspended in the air, as though she had seen the most bizarre phenomenon in the world, her eyes wide and round, muttering to herself.

Decades ago, when Madam Linghu traveled through the Shenwu Continent, she was fortunate enough to witness a fierce battle between two Innate Experts, one of whom was an Innate Expert with a Wind Spirit Root.

During the life-and-death moment in the battle, that Innate Expert with a Wind Spirit Root, like Fang Bai, condensed a pair of Wind Wings, reigning from above, and ultimately defeating the opponent.

However, that was after all an Innate Expert, and it was not surprising that he could form wings out of Essence Energy.

But the fact that Fang Bai could also form wings out of Essence Energy greatly surprised Madam Linghu.

"Could it be that this person has concealed his true power and is actually an Innate Expert?"

Just as this thought emerged in Madam Linghu's mind, she instantly dismissed it.

If Fang Bai were an Innate Expert, he could have destroyed Misty Island with a flip of his hand back when he was there; why would he run like a dog that lost its home, being chased by her all the way here?

But if Fang Bai was not an Innate Expert, how could one explain the wings of Essence Energy formed on his back?

Madam Linghu looked up at Fang Bai, who was hovering in the air, filled with doubts and confusion in her heart, and did not dare to continue attacking Fang Bai.

What Madam Linghu did not know was that Fang Bai's current Cultivation Level was still far from the Innate Realm.

The technique Fang Bai cultivated, "Dragon-Tiger-Lion-Elephant Technique," had only reached the seventh layer, the Form Essence Realm.

The so-called Form Essence Realm meant one could use their True Yuan to condense into various shapes according to their will, such as blades, spears, swords, axes, dragons, tigers, lions, elephants, etc., and then launch attacks at opponents.

The Form Essence Realm is equivalent to the Cosmic Level Realm in the True Martial Realm; Fang Bai is currently at the initial stage of the Form Essence Realm, which is also equivalent to the initial stage of the Cosmic Level.

With Fang Bai's ability to challenge above his level, he could contend with the initial Universe Level warriors of the True Martial Realm at the moment, but against someone like Madam Linghu, who was even stronger than the completed Universe Level warriors, as a Half-Step Innate Expert, he was still vastly outmatched and no contender whatsoever.

The reason Fang Bai had managed to hold out under Madam Linghu's pursuit was due to many life-saving methods that other Martial Artists did not possess.

Under normal circumstances, Fang Bai's "Dragon-Tiger-Lion-Elephant Technique" wouldn't allow him to condense Essence Energy wings until reaching the eighth layer, the Feather Essence Realm, to soar through the heavens and traverse the void like a bird.

The pair of Wind Wings Fang Bai had condensed at the moment called upon the purest Wind Essence Qi from that mass of Chaos Origin Energy in his Qi Sea, and such pure Essence Energy was only formed through repeated refinement and was not easily replenished once depleted.

Moreover, with Fang Bai's realm being inadequate, using this method to forcibly condense the Essence Energy wings could only allow him to hover in the air temporarily. They would dissipate in a moment and were incapable of actual flight like a bird.

The reason Fang Bai did this was to dodge Madam Linghu's full-force attacks, and secondly, to seize this opportunity to launch a counterattack, desperately attempting to turn the tide.

After rising into the air, Fang Bai put the Blood-Drinking Mad Blade into his Spatial Ring and then stretched out his left arm forward, his palm making a grasping gesture in the air.

A dazzling red light flickered; the Houyi Bow that Fang Bai had obtained from Shigong Village in the Secular World appeared in his palm.

"That is..."

Madam Linghu squinted her eyes unable to withstand the blinding light emitted by the Houyi Bow, simultaneously sensing a wild and scorching Fire Primordial Qi rapidly gathering around Fang Bai's body.

In just a few short breaths, Fang Bai, floating in midair, caused the space several yards around him to seem ablaze, reflecting upon the waters below, turning them a thorough red.

Although Madam Linghu and Fang Bai were more than a dozen yards apart at this moment, she still felt the temperature around her rapidly rising, influenced by the Fire Primordial Qi converging in this area.

Despite the fact that such heat posed no threat to the powerful Madam Linghu, the relentless waves of heat that kept coming dispersed the coolness around her, making her feel inexplicably irritated.

"Pfft!"

A mouthful of essence blood sprayed from Fang Bai's mouth, condensing on the bowstring of the Houyi Bow to form a blood arrow, its tip aimed directly at Madam Linghu below.

Within that slender blood arrow was an astonishing energy, which had already far exceeded Fang Bai's cultivation level; even Madam Linghu felt a chilly fear in her heart, sensing an unprecedented threat.

"The gap is the gap, no matter how many techniques you have, it's hard to escape death today!"

Madam Linghu's exceptional eyesight discerned that the blood-hued bow in Fang Bai's hands was no ordinary item, comparable to the blade-shaped Spiritual Artifact he had revealed earlier.

"This youngster's treasures, either are rare in the world or something I've never seen before! Could it be that he has coincidentally obtained the belongings of some fallen Innate Expert?"

Madam Linghu secretly pondered.

Right at this moment, the aura around Fang Bai surged, the temperature within several yards soared suddenly, even the sea below began to boil like bubbly water, making "gurgling" sounds.

"Whoosh!"

With a sharp sound, Fang Bai's right hand released the bowstring of the Houyi Bow, and the blood arrow containing immense power shot out like lightning, targeting Madam Linghu.

The moment the blood arrow was shot from the Houyi Bow, Madam Linghu's scalp tingled, her nerves tensed suddenly, and without thinking further, she energetically waved the Spirit Fox Grass in her hand, weaving a Wood Element Qi defensive wall in front of her.

After Fang Bai's blood arrow was fired, it dragged a mass of scorching flames that seemed to burn everything, enveloping Madam Linghu as though a fire beast wanted to devour her.

"Boom!"

The blood arrow collided fiercely with the Wood Element Qi defensive wall in mid-air, creating a shockwave like throwing a huge stone into the sea, causing waves to rise as high as several yards.

Madam Linghu originally thought that her defensive wall could nullify the blood arrow shot by Fang Bai, but after a moment of intense fluctuation, the defensive wall was unexpectedly penetrated by the arrow.

What surprised Madam Linghu even more was that after piercing through her defensive wall, the speed of the blood arrow slightly stuttered, yet its power was not diminished at all, continuing to shoot towards her.

Only then did Madam Linghu realize that she had underestimated the power of Fang Bai's arrow.

And the result of that oversight would be to pay a certain price.

The blood arrow was already in front of her in the blink of an eye, reminding Madam Linghu of the Grim Reaper's scythe and prompting a trace of fear in her.